

1. (Twice Amended) A method for inserting a digital signature into digital data, the digital data comprising bits, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning predetermined bits of the digital data for receiving the digital signature;

inserting associated data into the digital data;

signing the digital data excluding the predetermined bits resulting in the digital signature;

inserting the digital signature into the predetermined bits of the digital data for subsequent authentication of the digital data and the associated data; and

receiving the associated data from a Global Positioning Satellite transmission;

wherein at least a portion of the associated data comprises data identifying a public key needed to decrypt the digital signature.

47. (Twice Amended) An encoder for inserting a digital signature into digital data, the digital data comprising bits, the encoder comprising:

means for assigning predetermined bits of the digital data for receiving the digital signature;

means for signing the digital data excluding the predetermined bits resulting in the digital signature;

means for inserting the digital signature into the predetermined bits of the digital data for subsequent authentication of the digital data;

means for inserting associated data into the digital data prior to signing the digital data such that the encoder authenticates both the associated data as well as the digital data; and

means for receiving the associated data from a Global Positioning Satellite transmission;

wherein at least a portion of the associated data comprises data identifying a public key needed to decrypt the digital signature and at least a portion of the associated data comprises data identifying the identity of an owner of the digital data.

66. (Amended) The encoder of claim 47, wherein the digital data is an image and the associated data comprises data identifying a photographer of the image.

70 (Amended) The encoder of claim 47, wherein at least one of the field comprises data identifying the owner of the public key.

108. (Twice Amended) A method for inserting data into digital data, the method comprising the steps of:

storing an identifier corresponding to each of at least one user of a device which creates the digital data;

recognizing a user of the device whose identifier is stored in the memory through biometric characteristic recognition;

outputting the identifier corresponding to the recognized user from the memory; and

inserting data corresponding to the identifier into the digital data.

122. (Amended) A method for inserting a digital signature into digital data, the digital data comprising bits, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning predetermined bits of the digital data for receiving the digital signature;

inserting associated data into the digital data;

signing the digital data excluding the predetermined bits resulting in the digital signature; and

inserting the digital signature into the predetermined bits of the digital data for subsequent authentication of the digital data and associated data;

storing an identifier in a memory corresponding to each of at least one user of a device which creates the digital data;

recognizing a user of the device whose identifier is stored in the memory through biometric characteristic recognition; and

outputting the identifier corresponding to the recognized user from the memory to be inserted as the associated data.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. In the Official Action, the Examiner objects to claims 23 and 69 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) and 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, for failing to further limit the subject matter of claims 1 and 47, from which they respectively depend. In response, claims 23 and 69 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 23 and 69 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 117 and 124 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,646,997 to Barton (hereinafter "Barton"). Furthermore, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 6-16, 18-26, 33, 47, 49, 51-62,